

Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the many hospital professionals that serve every day to keep our communities leading strong, healthy lives. Having spent 28 years as a therapist, rehabilitation services manager, and a licensed nursing home administrator, I know firsthand the many challenges this industry continues to face.

Medicare and Medical Assistance payments are just a few of the many variables beyond a hospital's control—Medicare that only pays 80 to 90 cents for every dollar of cost in delivering care and Medical Assistance that only pays 40 to 60 cents for every dollar of cost in delivering care.

As Congress continues to work on issues impacting this industry, it is important to recognize the critical role our hospitals play in not only providing access to cost-effective care, but also economic growth.

In my home State of Pennsylvania, more than 584,000 individuals depend on hospitals for their jobs through direct and indirect employment. The economic contributions made by Pennsylvania's hospitals to local communities continue to increase, rising to \$98.9 billion in 2010, and that's up from \$89.8 billion during 2008.

When 268,000 hospital employees spend money on products and services, it translates to nearly 317,000 additional hospital service-related jobs and more than \$13 billion in employee compensation. More than \$27.2 billion in total labor income is generated directly and indirectly by Pennsylvania hospitals. In 55 of the 67 Pennsylvania counties, hospitals remain among the top five employers, providing family-sustaining jobs and solid benefits. Every additional dollar in employee compensation in the hospital sector results in 92 cents of wages to other Pennsylvania industries.

At a time marked by so much uncertainty, lawmakers need to ensure that hospitals remain viable assets in our communities, where they can provide jobs, support other businesses, and continue offering these critical services. Hospitals are about access to quality care and jobs.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 58 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Pastor Jerry Creel, Brush Arbor Baptist Church, Orlando, Florida, offered the following prayer:

O Lord God, I thank You that we can take a moment to acknowledge that there is one that is greater than all the governments and power of man.

Thou art worthy to receive glory, honor, and power.

Lord, as You guide the course of all creation and the events of mankind throughout history, may we willingly be in submission to Your mighty hand. Fill us with love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance.

Lord, raise up leaders here that You can show Yourself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward You.

Give us Your wisdom to solve our problems. Give us Your power to overcome our enemies. Give us Your compassion to meet people's needs.

In the name of my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who gives me freedom from the bondage of sin, liberty to stand for what is right, and the reason to live.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FUDGE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

BURDENSOME REGULATIONS STIFLE JOB CREATION

(Ms. JENKINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, to spur job creation in this country, we must remove burdensome regulations stifling our job creators. The EPA's Maximum Achievable Control Technology, or MACT rule, is set to crush our cement manufacturers.

Eastern Kansas has three cement manufacturers who employ thousands. I recently toured plants at Monarch Cement in Humboldt, Ashgrove Cement

in Chanute, and LaFarge Cement in Fredonia, and heard a similar story from all three. They have the revenue stream and the desire to hire more Kansans, but the cost of complying with government regulations, like the cement MACT, restrict their ability to do so.

The EPA shouldn't be implementing regulations that do more economic damage than they achieve in environmental good. I hope the EPA will take this opportunity to reform their rules and be part of the solution rather than the problem. Let's end overregulation and get Americans back to work.

JOB CRISIS IN AMERICA

(Ms. FUDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the job crisis in our Nation.

While we operate in a divided Congress, Americans are struggling. Millions are unemployed, underemployed, and without the skills to be employed. More than 1.4 million Americans have been out of work for more than 99 weeks. These Americans want jobs. Most Americans don't understand the delay. Many can't afford to wait. So why haven't we passed a jobs bill?

President Obama introduced his jobs plan with many of the provisions previously supported by both Republicans and Democrats. What is stopping this Congress from passing a jobs bill?

I want every unemployed American to know that some of us really are working to get a jobs bill passed. We feel your pain, we know your struggle. We must act now.

GOVERNOR BEVERLY PERDUE PROPOSES SUSPENSION OF CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the Raleigh News & Observer reported seriously that last Tuesday at a Rotary club meeting in Cary, North Carolina, Governor Beverly Perdue stated: "I think we ought to suspend, perhaps, elections for Congress for 2 years and just tell them we won't hold it against them, whatever decisions they made, to just let them help this country recover."

Any governor, especially our great neighbor of the 10th largest State in the country, should be unwavering for citizens to have their votes counted. Elections are vital for accessibility and accountability. Governor Perdue fails to understand that House Republicans have put job creation, economic growth, and limited spending at the center of the congressional agenda. Since January, House Republicans have led efforts to help our economy

recover by passing legislation to promote small businesses to create jobs. Even as a joke, Congress should not be a special class separated from the citizens. The House has passed 90 bills this year, and the Senate has only passed 20.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

SMALL BUSINESSES FIGHTING TO GROW

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, last week I held meetings in my district with over 50 businesses; not to talk to them, but to listen to them. I wanted to hear from small businesses themselves—what is standing in your way and what do you need to succeed. And I heard that even in the sluggish economy, these small businesses are finding opportunities. They want to hire and grow. Difficult times cannot repress the ingenuity and determination of the American small businessperson.

What they do need is access to capital to seize these opportunities. They need small business loans that don't take a small mountain of paperwork to apply for. They need us to pass the American Jobs Act to give them the tools they need to innovate and grow.

Congress bent over backwards to bail out Wall Street billionaires. Where's the help for the ordinary men and women working on Main Street? Congress needs to get our priorities straight. We should be fighting for small businesses that are the backbone of our economy and the foundation of our American Dream.

□ 1210

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARINE CAPTAIN THOMAS HEITMANN

(Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in honor of Captain Thomas Heitmann, a marine from Mendota, Illinois, who faithfully served our country. He was killed on September 19, 2011, at the age of 27, in a helicopter crash at Camp Pendleton, California.

Captain Heitmann was one of six children. His parents sent their son to Holy Cross School, and he graduated in 2002 from St. Bede Academy in Peru. He is remembered throughout the community as a truly outstanding person. He was known by his family, friends, former coaches, and teammates as "the all-American boy," "the star athlete," "a kind, supportive and good friend," and a "gentleman to all."

Captain Heitmann was brought up with a strong set of core values. He worked hard and understood the impor-

tance of his family and his friends, and he truly cherished the time that he spent with them. Captain Heitmann's passion was to fly. One of his former coaches said: "It was a dream come true for him to fly for the Marines and be a pilot." I understand that dream.

Captain Heitmann is a true patriot and displayed the love for his country that separates the people of our great Nation from any other in the world. Our men and women in the military, like Captain Heitmann, work tirelessly to protect our country. Their sacrifice is the reason for our liberty. While he will be sorely missed, it's because of his commitment and that of people like him that we can stand before you in a Chamber like this today.

God bless Captain Heitmann's service, and God bless his family.

A DECADE IN AFGHANISTAN

(Mr. QUIGLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, we have been in Afghanistan for 10 years.

Two years ago, on the eighth anniversary of our invasion of Afghanistan, I stood in this same spot and asked: Have our 8 years, 791 American deaths, and billions of U.S. dollars spent in Afghanistan made America safer? My conclusion, sadly, was no.

Two years later, I am left asking the same questions and reaching the same conclusions: al-Qaeda is still not primarily in Afghanistan, but in Pakistan, Yemen, Africa and elsewhere. We still cannot afford a vast ground war and rebuilding effort abroad. We should be fighting a smaller, smarter war that goes after terrorists instead of building nations. It's time to get out of Afghanistan before another year passes and we are back here saying the same thing all over again.

PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITALS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome members of the Hospital and Health System Association of Pennsylvania to Washington today.

Hospitals are an essential piece of Pennsylvania's economy. Annually, the total economic benefit for our State is \$2.7 billion a year.

More than 16,000 Pennsylvanians are employed by hospitals, and they are paid an average salary of more than \$52,000 a year. In my home district, Lancaster General Hospital is now the largest employer. Doctors, nurses, and other hospital workers are contributing to our economy and saving lives. They're working hard to come up with new ways to save lives, new methods to improve our health, and ways to reduce the cost of care.

Working in a hospital is not easy. Doctors, nurses, and administrators

help individuals and families who are hurting and who are struggling with illness and disease. And they work long hours performing difficult tasks.

We thank our hospital professionals for their service; and as chairman of the Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee, I will always listen to their voice as Congress works to improve our health care system.

AMERICAN JOBS ACT

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, the "party of no" is at it again. Republicans have been in the majority for 273 days, and they still have no plans to create new jobs. Now the Republicans are saying "no" to the American Job Act, with the majority leader calling this bill "dead."

But what are the Republicans really saying no to? They're saying no to helping small businesses grow and hire. They're saying no to keeping teachers in the classroom. They're saying no to keeping firefighters, first responders and cops on the job. They're saying no to building our crumbling roads, bridges and schools. They're saying no to cutting taxes for hardworking American families.

The American Job Act is a bipartisan approach with ideas that have been supported by both Democrats and Republicans. We must stop this political game. The American people are suffering, and they need our help now. Let's all say yes to putting Americans back to work and pass this bipartisan agenda.

MIDDLE EAST PEACE

(Mr. GARDNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARDNER. Over this past week, I was reminded that while my Jewish friends and colleagues were celebrating Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish new year, members of the United Nations were considering a motion that would further jeopardize chances for Middle East peace. I'm very concerned, Mr. Speaker, that the willingness of the U.N. to consider Palestinian statehood, despite United States calls to halt such an action, will embolden Israel's enemies.

This must stop now. We must send a message to the United Nations that their continued support for anti-Semitic and anti-Israel resolutions is unacceptable to the United States. As members of our House leadership, Republican and Democrat, recently said in a New York Daily News op-ed: "Congress will not sit idly by." Nor will I sit idly by. We simply cannot and will not allow Israel, a beacon of hope in a volatile area of the world, to be ignored and cast aside by the U.N.

Lasting peace will only succeed if the Israelis and the Palestinians themselves come to the table for direct negotiations. Peace is not easy, as we